

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 11 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,996,764) in view of Saito (U.S. Patent 4,866,692) or Uchiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,545).

The independent claims have been amended to recite, in relevant part, that "the states of the second finite state diagram are defined by a division of each of the states in the first finite state transition table into two transition states of the second finite state transition diagram according to whether an immediately preceding non-return to zero code of the state of the first finite state transition table is zero or one." (emphasis added) (See specification, for example, at pg. 17, ln. 7-12).

Although Yamada appears to describe a PR-channel APP decoder, the applied portions of Yamada do not appear to disclose or suggest combined decoding of equalized, turbo encoded data, where states of a second finite state transition diagram, which is a combination of a first finite state transition diagram and intersymbol interference, are defined in accordance with the immediately preceding non-return to zero (NRZ) code of each of the states in a first finite transistion table. Nowhere do the applied portions of Yamada appear to disclose or suggest that the relation between each of the states of the first finite state transition diagram (Figure 8) and the states of the second finite state transition diagram (Figure 9) is that "each of the states in the first finite state transition table [is divided] into two transition states of the second

finite state transition diagram, according to whether an immediately preceding non-return to zero code of the state of the first finite state transition table is zero or one," as required by the claimed invention. (emphasis added)

Saito or Uchiyama, which appear to disclose (2,7) RLL codes, do not cure the deficiencies of Yamada regarding the requirements of the claimed invention, as discussed above.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, the combinations of Yamada with Saito or Uchiyama fail to meet this limitation and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

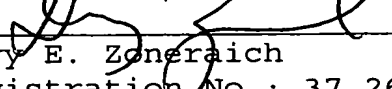
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

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